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Periodical reports are being received by the Government on the above items. No abnormal features have been observed so far, as a result of rationing and there is no particular increase in mortality amongst the vulnerable groups of population from any cause directly attributable to food shortage.

"The Nutrition officer attached to Food Department has also proposed a scheme for the examination of school going children between the ages of about 5–12 in different areas of the Presidency, for signs of food deficiency diseases. A close watch on the health of the vulnerable population is being maintained. The free distribution of milk to elementary school children in certain deficit districts and the supply of free midday meals to elementary school children under the compulsory Elementary Education Scheme are intended to offset the effect of reduced rations."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it a fact, Sir, that midday meals are being stopped from the 1st April to school children?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I think so; because it is mentioned in the budget."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" One of the means by which you wanted to prevent under-nutrition or mal-nutrition is sacrificed evidently may I say wantonly!"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I suppose you dealt with this in the budget".

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

Lands under the Tungabhadra Project.

* 127 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the inauguration of the Tungabhadra Project was notified in the official gazette;

(b) how many acres of land coming under the project area have been sold in each year and at what price, after the said notification, with reference to each taluk of Bellary and Kurnool districts;

(c) how many persons have purchased more than 50 acres and below 100 acres in the said area and at what price; and

(d) how many have purchased more than 100 acres and at what price in respect of each taluk referred to above?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) 1941.

" (b) Talukwar particulars of sale of lands, value per acre, etc., are not available, as the ayacut of the project has not been fixed yet.

" (c) & (d) The question does not arise."

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SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is it not possible for the Government to get this information about the sale of lands at least in the supposed project area?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The ayacut has not yet been localised. Therefore the information that is asked for cannot be given now."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when the legislation relating to the Tungabhadra project about preventing speculation in purchase of land will be introduced?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Notice; this is a subject dealt with by the Minister for Revenue."

Secretary, Chingleput District Board.

* 128 Q.—SRI C. N. MUTHUANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the claims of one Mr. Natesa Ayyar, a senior qualified officer in the service of the Chingleput District Board, has been overlooked when the vacancy of the secretaryship arose;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Manicka Naicker has been appointed to the secretaryship;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Manicka Naicker was much junior to Mr. Natesa Ayyar and educationally unqualified for the post;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Natesa Ayyar has appealed to Government against the decision of the District Board President, Chingleput, in overlooking his claims for the secretaryship of the Board; and

(*e*) if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" (*a*), (*b*) & (*c*) Sri R. C. Manicka Naicker was appointed as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board in preference to one Sri Natesa Ayyar who was his senior. Sri Manicka Naicker is qualified to hold the post of Secretary. Promotion to the post of Secretary which is a selection post is made on grounds of merit, seniority being considered only where the qualifications and merit are approximately equal. The promotion of Sri Manicka Naicker as Secretary was made on this basis."

(*d*) & (*e*) Sri Natesa Ayyar submitted a petition to Government in November 1946 against the supersession of his claims for appointment as Secretary of the Chingleput District Board. The petition was rejected."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether it is a fact that Sri Manicka Naicker has not got even S.S.L.C. qualification?"

THE HON. SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI :—" Sri Manicka Naicker is a S.S.L.C. eligible for college course." (Laughter.)